



## Western Washington University Associated Students Legislative Action Council

Tuesday, February 13th, 2018 5:00 PM VU 567

**Members:** *Present: Rosa Rice-Pelepko (AS Legislative Liaison), Victoria Matey (ESC Rep), Casey Hayden (Assistant Director of Student Representation & Governance), Jordan Van Hoozer (ESP Environmental Justice Coordinator), Zoe Evans-Agnew (Student at Large), Hannah Sear (Student at Large), Greta Merkel (Student at Large), and Natasha Hessami (Student at Large).*  
*Absent: Emma Scalzo (REP Organizing and Outreach Coordinator)*

**Advisor:** Casey Hayden

**Secretary:** Chloe Callahan

**Guest:** Simrun Chhabra (AS President)

### Motions:

**LAC-18-W-11** Approval of the minutes for February 6th, 2018. *Passed.*

**LAC-18-W-12** Approval of moving the ESC, ESP and DOC Lobby Day Funding Request from an Information Item to an Action Item. *Passed.*

**LAC-18-W-13** Approval of the ESC, ESP and DOC Lobby Day Funding Request. *Passed.*

*The committee called the meeting to order at 5:19 PM.*

### I. Introductions

Chhabra asked the committee to share name, pronouns, major and why they were in LAC.

### II. Approval of Minutes

#### A. February 6<sup>th</sup>

*MOTION: LAC-18-W-11 by Merkel*

Approval of the minutes for February 6th, 2018.

Second: Evans-Agnew                      Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

### III. Action Items

#### A. State Need Grant Trip Funding Request

*MOTION: LAC-18-W-12 by Hessami*

Approval of the State Need Grant Trip Funding Request.

Second: Evans-Agnew                      Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

#### **IV. Information Items**

##### **A. ESC, ESP and DOC Lobby Day Funding Request**

Matey said the request was because the groups surpassed the \$10,000 funding request previously submitted. They were asking for \$550 more to cover the additional costs of printing and food. The group had reduced the hotel costs because they had less attendees, but still needed a bit more funds. They have about 60 people going and the agendas had been printed that week.

##### ***MOTION: LAC-18-W-13 by Hessami***

Approval of moving the ESC, ESP and DOC Lobby Day Funding Request from an Information Item to an Action Item.

Second: Van Hoozer Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

##### ***MOTION: LAC-18-W-14 by Evans-Agnew***

Approval of the ESC, ESP and DOC Lobby Day Funding Request.

Second: Merkel Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

#### **V. Discussion Items**

##### **A. LAC Outreach**

The committee discussed when they would schedule tabling to encourage student to call their legislators. Chabbra expressed that if the committee gave her more information about the event she could bring it up to the Board of Directors and potentially post it on the AS Facebook page. The committee decided to make the leaflets and logistical plans outside of the meeting time.

##### **B. Bill Writing**

Merkel had reached out to Hannah Spencer, AS Representation & Engagement Programs Director, and would be meeting with her that week to discuss more. Merkel expressed that she would like to write a bill through LAC. Potentially a unionization bill or any other agenda item that did not have bills during the 2018 legislative session. Rice-Pelepko suggested picking agenda items, with guidance from the committee, to write the bill during interim then taking that bill to the following legislative session. The bill writing would take place outside of the committee.

##### **C. LAC Charge and Charter**

Callahan stated the Charge and Charter was on the agenda because of recent changes in the membership of the committee and wanted feedback from the committee. Hessami asked if the committee would be reaching out to more graduate students. Chabbra said there was a big discussion about how graduate students would be involved within the Associated Students and committees on campus. She was hoping to work with Trista Truemper, the Student Trustee, to talk about the Graduate Students involvement in the AS and how to engage them in a way that is worth their time. Hayden said if the graduate student was on the committee they should remain voting. Hessami asked why the graduate student had been changed to non-voting. Callahan said it was more to bring up the discussion about the graduate position. Chabbra said GSAC had looked into

creating their own AS because the AS had not been supporting and representing the graduate students well. Hessami had an issue with changing the graduate position to non-voting and felt there would be more graduate students that would want to be involved. Rice-Pelepko said even if GSAC separated, the committee could still provide the opportunity to represent the graduate student body because GSAC was a small group. She felt that the graduate student should still have a voting rights and the committee could find a student that was interested in participating. Hessami asked if the committee could function without a graduate student. Chhabra said the committee would still be able to function, this position for graduate students would allow representation. Chhabra asked the committee if they would like to keep the graduate student as a voting member. The committee agreed.

#### **VI. Other Business**

Rice-Pelepko shared the Automatic Voter Registration bill had passed the legislature. She had started working with Merkel about the idea of bill drafting. She thought the committee should pick portions of the Western agenda to write bills about. She recommended writing bills about student unionization, support for survivors of sexual assault and support for undocumented students. She wanted feedback from the committee on what agenda items they felt needed to be worked on for the rest of the year. Hessami clarified that they would be reviewing the agenda to see what the committee would like to focus on the following quarter and potentially propose to WSA General Assembly. Rice-Pelepko said yes this would be a focus on looking forward. Merkel, Evans-Agnew, Hessami and Van Hoozer agreed with the top three priorities that Rice-Pelepko had suggested. Rice-Pelepko continued her update and informed the committee that pre-registration for 15-16 year olds was still in the works. Prepaid postage would not be passed that legislative session, but it might get a study in the budget to see how prepaid postage would affect voter turnout. Rice-Pelepko said if agenda items didn't pass that year, they could always add it to the following year's agenda, especially for the State Need Grant because the next year would be a budget year. Rice-Pelepko would be hosting an event in spring quarter that would be a town hall to get input from students and she would like LAC to play a role in that. This would allow the agenda to be set earlier and more time to plan and reach out to legislators for support. Hessami asked how the committee could support Rice-Pelepko. Rice-Pelepko asked the committee to do some research on how the Western agenda items had done during the legislative session.

***The committee adjourned the meeting at 6:01 PM.***